

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Fishing Closure, Portion of Territorial Seas

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.B and R.S. 49:967.D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby closes all recreational and commercial fishing, effective May 9, 2010, 6:00 p.m., in the following area:

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Robert Barham announced that the state territorial seas and the beaches that border the area extending seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in LA R.S. 56:495 to the state/federal territorial sea boundary from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the eastern portion of Atchafalaya Bay at Point au Fer Island at 91 degrees 20 minutes 44 seconds west longitude will close to all commercial and recreational fishing effective 6:00 p.m., May 9, 2010.

Secretary Barham also announced that recreational and commercial fishing is closed on all beaches that border the area closed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's Declaration of Emergency issued on May 6, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

This action is taken in close coordination with the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the Department of Environmental Quality to avoid the possibility that commercially harvested and recreationally caught fish and other aquatic life used for consumption are tainted with hydrocarbons. Governor Jindal in a Declaration of Emergency issued on April 29, 2010 stated in part that "a declaration that a state of emergency exists is appropriate due to the predicted impact of oil along the Louisiana coast leaking from the Deepwater Horizon which threatens the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl and other birds, and likewise threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident".

Effective with the closure, no person shall take or possess or attempt to take any species of fish from waters within the closed area or the beaches that border the closed area. The possession, sale, barter, trade, or exchange of any fish or other aquatic life from the closed area during the closure is prohibited. This area will remain closed to fishing until reopened by the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary